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FM AMEMBASSY ABUJA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5758

UNCLAS ABUJA 000644

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EEB/IFD/OMA AND IFD/ODF

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EFIN ECON PREL NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIA: DEMARCHE DELIVERED IN SUPPORT OF KOSOVO'S
IMF AND WORLD BANK MEMBERSHIP BID

REF: SECSTATE 33629

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED) HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

¶1. (SBU) On April 17, the Ambassador delivered reftel
demarche to Minister of Finance (MinFin), Mansur Muhtar.
MinFin Muhtar took our points on board, but said he wanted to
consult with the Foreign Minister. Ambassador noted that she
had already spoken to the FonMin on April 12 where he
indicated he would discuss with Muhtar his recommendation to
support a positive vote. The Ambassador noted strong USG
interest in this issue and support for Kosovo and that it was
important for the GON to send in its official response in
writing soonest, which we hoped would be yes, but also
because a quorum was needed.

¶2. (SBU) Ambassador followed up with FonMin in an April 17
telecon after Muhtar meeting. FonMin repeated his view that
he would recommend to Muhtar positive support for Kosovo
membership, and would speak to the Finance Minister prior to
his own departure April 19 for Geneva. Note: The GON has
not/not recognized Kosovo as an independent country, due to
GON sensitivities about its own secessionist history which
date from the 1967-70 Biafra War. End Note.

SANDERS